

Dec 27-30

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

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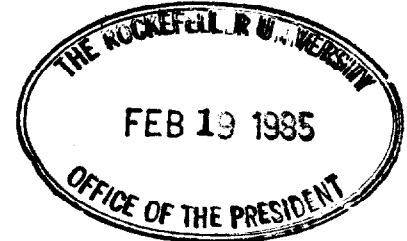


SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521

13 February 1985

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021



Dear Josh,

I ask a very special favor of you--agree to participate in the American Society of Zoologists' annual symposium Science as a Way of Knowing. This will be held in Baltimore December 27-30, 1985. The project has been underway for two years and it has been well received in the United States and, with its publications, throughout the world.

The SAAWOK project considers how the introductory courses in biology at the university level might be improved. Each year a major topic is considered. In 1983 it was "Evolutionary Biology;" this past December it was "Human Ecology;" and this coming year it will be "Genetics." The goals of the project are to emphasize the conceptual framework of the field and to use the data of science to illuminate human problems. Our goals and procedures are discussed in pages 421-422 and 469ff in the "Evolutionary Biology" reprint enclosed and pages 4-7 in the "Human Ecology" reprint.

This is the format. At each annual meeting there is a symposium with 5-10 speakers, each giving a 50 minute presentation, and sessions that show appropriate films. In addition, I prepare an essay on the topic of the year, with an extensive bibliography. Copies of this are given to those attending the symposium. Enclosed is an example of what was distributed at the last symposium--"Human Ecology."

Subsequently the papers presented at the symposium, a brief description of the film program, and the essay are published in the American Zoologist. Large numbers of reprints, such as the one on "Evolutionary Biology" enclosed, are distributed throughout the world. All this is made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York that covers the travel expenses (small) of those who participate in the symposium and for printing and distributing the reprints (huge).

accept: ☒

regret: ☐

I am anxious to make this December's symposium, Science as a Way of Knowing--Genetics a truly memorable affair. Genetics is basic to all else in modern biology and it must have appropriate emphasis in the introductory courses in the colleges and universities. I am planning to ask outstanding biologists to participate for two major reasons. First, they will be most capable of providing perspectives and that is what is necessary. Second, when individuals of your stature agree to participate in a symposium on education the message comes through loud and clear to those in the audience and those who, later, will read the published reports: "If Josh Lederberg believes that education is important, maybe I should too and do a better job of teaching."

This year's symposium will be in Baltimore. We plan to have a plenary session the evening of 27 December, morning and afternoon sessions on the 28th and a final plenary session the evening of the 28th. The tentative list of topics includes: gene structure, gene function, patterns of inheritance, genetic engineering, the Green Revolution, a case history of the domestication of a food plant (corn or wheat), genetics and evolution, human genetics, genetics and race, cultural inheritance, genetics and human welfare, the future.

I am hoping that you will be willing to speak at the last plenary session, tentatively scheduled for the night of 28 December. Although I do not intend to restrict the scope of what you might say, I hope that you might emphasize how you view the relation of genetics to human welfare, a subject on which you have had lots to say. You are in a unique position to give insights that will provide ideas and approaches for the teachers. SAAWOK attempts to emphasize the conceptual framework in contrast with merely the details that plague most introductory courses. The reception of SAAWOK has been so encouraging largely because truly concerned and gifted individuals have agreed to participate in the symposia.

The period between Christmas and New Year's Day is not the best to be away from home but I hope that you can agree to be with us. SAAWOK has become a very important educational project and your participation, and that of other outstanding scientists, is essential for its continued usefulness. Please say "yes."

Since retiring two years ago, I have been spending essentially all of my time on SAAWOK. It has been very hard work but I believe that the project is having an impact. Field work with *Drosophila* has taken a remote back-burner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. A. Moore', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John A. Moore